

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2014

At the Charlotte County Historical Center (CCHC)
22959 Bayshore Road, Charlotte Harbor FL 33980

Committee Members

Sue Blackwell (47/60)
Mary Jane Handlin (18/20)
Lynn Harrell (108/117)
Michael Haymans (24/43)
Vernon Peeples (56/67)
Scot Shively (53/56)
Larry Peck(1/1)
Dianne Munson (1/1)

Present

Mary Jane Handlin
Lynn Harrell
Michael Haymans
Scot Shively
Larry Peck
Dianne Munson
Sue Blackwell

Not Present

Vernon Peeples

Staff

Jackie Brown, Historical Coordinator
Jackie Anderson, Admin. Assistant
Anne Shepherd, Division Manager

Guests

Joan Fisher

9:00 a.m. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: HAC meeting minutes for January 8, 2014, were approved unanimously.

Old Business

HAC Appointments and Terms of Office: Larry Peck and Dianne Munson have been approved and attended first meeting. Bev Cisco's paperwork is still being processed.

Placida Bunk House: Luncheon event has been rescheduled to February 16, 2014, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, bring a bagged lunch and chairs. Music and drinks provided by Michael Haymans.

Historical Conference- Moved to May to coincide with F.A.S. event taking place May 8th – 10th. May be able to have the event at Grace Street, the PG Womans club, or at Mid-County library.

HAC fundraising projects: Bunk House T-shirt can be sold at libraries and upcoming community events, such as Florida Frontier Days and Lemon Bay Fest/Cracker Days.

New Business-

-Mercer Cemetery, Jackie Brown spoke to Dr. Michelle Williams, discussed the cemetery being a mound. If it is a mound it is federally protected, if disturbed penalty could be \$30 million fine. Could possibly be Calusa or Glades. The cemetery is located in an old cypress swamp. April Watson and Melissa Timo were contacted to help determine if it is a mound.

-FPAN offers a variety of interesting public programs, presented by Melissa Timo and/or Dr. Michelle Williams. Example: "Pre- Historic Snowbirds: The Migration of Pre-Historic people." Such programs might be used in place of CCHC presentations curtailed because of relocation plans.

-Florida Master Site File needs to have corrections and updates made on multiple local historic sites/buildings.

Historical Development – None

Historical Staff report- The hiring process for a new historian has begun, eight people have been selected, most candidates are from out of state. Those interviews are being done via Skype.

History programs & exhibits- Costumed “Living History” docents will be at Florida Frontier Days February 21. Registered professional archaeologist April Watson, doctoral candidate from Florida Atlantic University, will conduct a program/workshop on “Historical Archaeology in Charlotte Harbor” March 7th & 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., ending with field work and a mock dig at the Knight House grounds. In April, “Florida’s Mean Season” will be presented by Jackie Brown, a series of lectures on the most deadly and destructive hurricanes in Florida. In March there will be two Spring Break camps held at the Port Charlotte Library and Mid-County Library. An off-site exhibit marking the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Charley is also in the works.

Archives and “Friends of the Englewood Archives” – No activity

Preservation project updates - None

Historical Center update - Commissioners have not made a decision yet as to when or where Center operations will be moved.

Citizen Input – Local resident Joan Fisher spoke on concerns about county tax payers’ money and resources being used to support creation of the PG History Center, a private not-for-profit project, while nothing is resolved for the county’s own Historical Center. Ms. Fisher attended the BCC workshops and is concerned that no decisions were made by the commissioners regarding the Historical Center. She is upset by rumors that the county might close the Historical Center permanently.

Member Input and Announcements

- Sue: PG Historical Society elected new board president, Martha Lundquist; Sue will bring in fliers about upcoming PGHS events
- Mary Jane: Attended Cape Haze Pioneer trail event, shared info on Lemon Bay Historical Society events
- Scot: Blanchard House Museum will have a week-long exhibit at Charlotte State Bank (PG branch) during Black History month
- Larry: Genealogy seminar on February 19th at the PC Beach Complex. Subject: DNA. Best way to contact is through CC Genealogical Society Website
- Dianne: Florida Frontier Days, February 21 & 22. “Murder in the Library” February 28 at Mid-County Library

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Next HAC Meeting:

- **HAC monthly meeting-** 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 12 , 2014, at CCHC

cc:

Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Administrator

Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Ray Sandrock, County Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County

Commissioner Christopher Constance, District 4
Services Dept.

Tommy Scott, Director, Community